コッペリオン【COPPELION】

❶遺伝子操作によって生まれた、放射能への抗体を持った子供。
❷その子供たちで組織された、陸上自衛隊第一師団特殊部隊の名称。放射能に汚染された東京での人命救助などを任務としている。

[illegible] children who were [illegible] to have [illegible] body against radioactivity.
[illegible] which is composed with these children, 3rd Division. They are assigned to [illegible] radiation-contaminated Tokyo.

AOI

IBARA

TAEKO

COPPELION コッペリオン 12

井上智徳
TOMONORI INOUE

2095
ヤンマガKC

コッペリオン 12
井上智徳
TOMONORI INOUE

講談社

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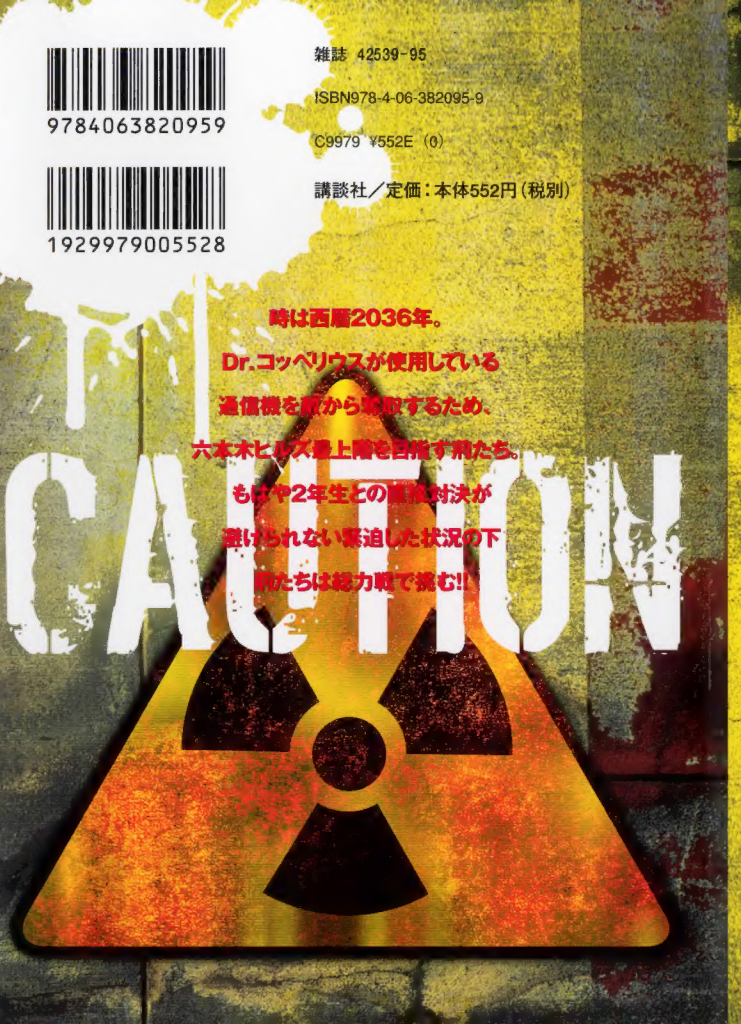
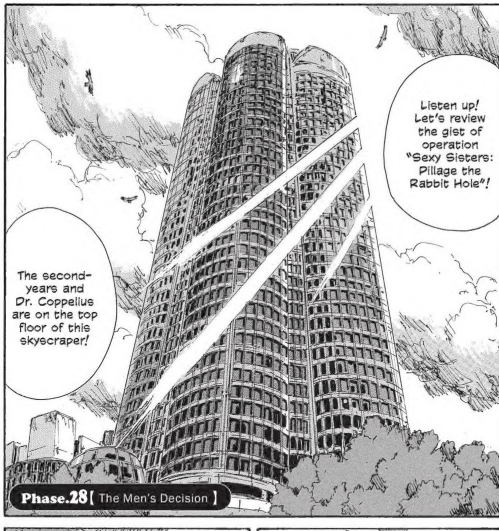
時は西暦2036年。
Dr.コッペリウスが使用している
通信機を前から奪取するため、
六本木ヒルズ最上階を目指す刑たち。
もはや2年生との[illegible]対決が
避けられない緊迫した状況の下
刑たちは総力戦で挑む!!

CAUTION



※この物語で使用している設定や専門用語は、
物語を理解しやすくするため
概念的に使用している箇所があります。
例えば、「放射線」と厳密には表記すべき場面で、
便宜的に「放射能」を使っていたりします。
あらかじめ御了承ください。


Listen up! Let's review the gist of operation "Sexy Sisters: Pillage the Rabbit Hole"!
The second-years and Dr. Coppelius are on the top floor of this skyscraper!
Phase.28【 The Men's Decision 】

And they're after Aoi... right?

Our objective is to nab the stuffed rabbit Dr. Coppelius is using to communicate with!

10F
Think of it as going after the king in a game of chess!
You guys better not let 'em checkmate us!
HEE
Like...
HUFF
How many floors high is this place?!

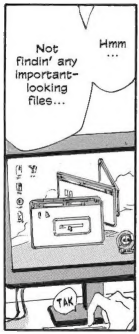
Top Floor Observation Deck, 53F—
HMM HMM ...
THE "INVESTIGATION UNIT" IS ON THEIR WAY.
IT SEEMS THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO MEET ME...
FUVVT
UNFORTUNATELY FOR THEM, I AM NOT SO INCLINED!
So there's no way we'd just hand you over to representative Naruse and them.
INTERCEPT THEM, MY GIRLS...
RRMM
RRMM
AND CAPTURE AOI FUKASAKU.

I can't take even one more step!
HUFF
My knees are totally shaking! This is one big joke! Ahahaha!
HUFF
28F
Aaargh! I... I give up!!
This is a tough climb, that's for sure...
CLICK
CLICK
But the elevators aren't working. Dr. Coppelius must have control of them...
He's trying to wear us down!
Petty friggin' jerk!
It just turned noon.
Shall we break for lunch and catch our breath?
Lunch?! We're in the middle of a *war* here!
Sounds good to me! Let's find a spot that's nice and wide.
Yay! A picnic!

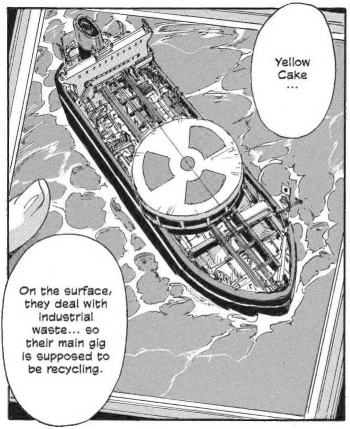
…Huh?!
Looks like it's all offices.
28F
Let's see what's on this floor…
株式会社 ATOMS
Google
MacroSoft Japan
YELLOW CA
lifedoor
MacroSoft
YELLOW CAK
Yellow Cake?!
…that this place has electricity because…
Could it be…
A company nameplate? Do you suppose they actually have an office here?
Who the hell are they?!
Them again?!
…is still operating here in secret…?!
…Yellow Cake…

This is...
YELLOW CAKE
VMM
...Yellow Cake's Tokyo office...?
It's so... orderly.
VMM

Then there might be some kinda proof of what they're doing left here...
GASP
So shouldn't this office still be linked to their headquarters now?
They make a killing bringing nuclear waste here from overseas, yeah?
BASH
And you're thinking that if we find that, we can blow the lid off of Yellow Cake?
We gotta find something, no matter what it is!
Okay, get searching!
FWAP
FWAP
FWAP
Uh... what about lunch?
Time to eat! ♪

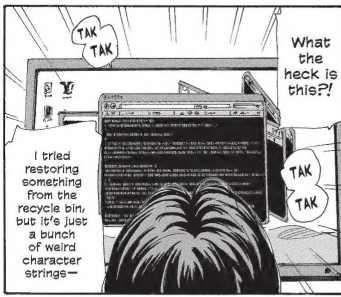

Hmm ...
Not findin' any important-looking files...
TAK

Hey, stop hogging it! Let me have some, too!
Mmmm, fried chicken!
CLICK CLICK


Yellow Cake ...
On the surface, they deal with industrial waste... so their main gig is supposed to be recycling.

These guys just keep getting more fishy.
So they deleted anything incriminating, huh?
ONPH
ONPH
CLACK

...
CLACK
Like a "toy" company that secretly makes weapons.
OMPH
OMPH
That kinda camouflage is probably pretty common.


TAK TAK
I tried restoring something from the recycle bin, but it's just a bunch of weird character strings—
What the heck is this?!
TAK TAK

TAK TAK
Hm...?!
TAK TAK

What're we supposed to do with it if we can't read it?!
Crap...

A top secret file?!
TAK TAK
It's encrypted!

We need some lame computer nerd!
I don't believe we'll be able to make anything of this.
Ohh! So... what's the password?!
Perhaps there's a password that would lift the encryption ...?
Why would we know?! Can we find some freeware to hack it with? Wait, there's no internet!
???
Hm ...?!
A computer nerd...
Full-grown adults, and the only thing we have to do all day is play ball...
What are we doing ...?
Ugh...
Nagoya Dome—
Strike!

Hello?
FLIP
Huh? A phone call?
VRR VRR
?!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS, LIEUTENANT IBUSE!!
That's gotta be a call for help from the Coppelion! Read it, fatty!
What ?!
I received another message from Tokyo via my private line!
Long time no talk! It's me, Mushanokoji!
OMPH
It looks like garbled text that's been encrypted, you see!
I *can't* read it!

Look, stop dragging me into this!
I have no idea!
GLANCE
GLANCE
What the hell? Why would they send something like that to you?!
En-crypt-ed?!
We were relieved of our duties in Tokyo!
The 3rd Division can't back the Coppelion up anymore.
Hey... listen to me.
AND FRANKLY, I'D RATHER NOT FOLLOW IN HIS WAKE!
I'VE HEARD THE RUMORS ABOUT VICE PRINCIPAL MISHIMA'S DETENTION ...
...
YOURS IS THE ONLY ONE WE HAVE, MUSHANOKOJI!
SO WE CAN'T USE ANY OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE'S COMMUNI-CATION LINES.

Whew…
TUNK
I'll treat you to something delicious—anything at all—just help us out!
I'm begging you!
…
I'm just an engineer.
We're the same as you.
Heh!
We only joined the 3rd Division because the pay was a little higher than elsewhere.
All I want is to be able to make it safely through the next day, just the same.
…you ask me to stick my nose into this nasty business…
And yet…
I do the work that's given to me each day…

But...
...seeing how bravely those girls are working...
Even if it'll lead me down a cliff I can't climb back up.
...makes me wonder if there isn't something I can do, too.
If we get fired, well, then we're fired, Mushanokoji!
If it comes down to that, then hell, we could open up a little restaurant together!
How 'bout it?

BLIP
Huh? A voice call?
We got a reply!
!
THIS IS CHIEF MUSHA-NOKOJI, AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE'S RESEARCH CENTER...
AHH, AHH, TESTING, TESTING...
YEAH, THANKS, LAME-O NERD!
O-OKAY! THANKS!
LA— HOW RUDE!
I've already begun to decode your message! Just leave it to me!
Coppelion, I'll be assisting you from here on out!
TAK TAK

It's time for us to go back to our rabbit chase!
Alright... Tracking down Yellow Cake is on hold!
I'm counting on you, Karon!
Yeah!
...?!
KUN
You remember my plan, Naruse?
KARASHA
!!

WHOOSH
!!
It's an ambush! It's going for Aoi Fukasaku!
The Chimera!
Nice hit!
Shion ...
SHUNK

Move it, Naruse !!
THUD
Let's move!
THUD
Head for the top floor!
THUD
P-28 END

MYOOOO
The Chimera's behind us!
Run for it!
Phase.29 [3D Labyrinth]
...?!
Sunlight... Is that the main floor?!
Head for the top floor!
TMP
TMP
The operation starts now!

GROOOOAN
?!

What the heck?! It's like a big dungeon...
Wh...
?!
立体迷宮展
3D LABYRINTH
A three-dimensional labyrinth?!
We can't afford to get lost in here!
What the ...?
THUD
THUD
THUD
GROOAN
OAN
OAN
OAN...

KRRSH
What're you standing there for, morons?!
Move your butts!
This way! Hurry!
TMP
TMP
MYOOO
Eeek!
Get to the stairs! We gotta go up!

Damn it...
Is this maze itself Dr. Coppelius's trap?!
FWAP
SHUFFLE
Taeko, stay close to me!
Y-Yes!
Here comes the water flea!
Huh?! Wh-Why—?
STOMP
STOMP
You stick with me, Aoi Fukasaku!

バコ!!
POW
Whoa, the floor!
バキ
CRUMBLE
ベキ
!!
CRACK
CRACK
WHUD
ドゥ
ガラ
RUMBLE
ガラ

TMP
TMP
Okay! We'll use 'im as a bridge!
JUMP
What?!
That sure blew up in his face!
Ahaha!
!
This game is way too hard!
HOME
Come on, Aoi Fukasaku!
GRAB
MYOOO
Ahh!
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
RRMM
!!

She's falling!!
Aoi ...!
BAM
WHOOSH
TMP
TMP
Gah !!
TMP
WHOMP
Nice moves, Shion!

Roger that, rep!
TMP
...
Kanon, let's meet up at the bridge up ahead!
TMP
TMP
TMP
We'll keep going higher—
Okay!
CRACK
CRACK

K R R R S H
Whoa!!
!!
There she is...
H W O O O
Mana Tsubu-raya!

FWOOSH
You're not taking her!
BLAM
BLAM
No no no...!
FREEZE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
How 'bout this?!
It's no good!

Yah!
!
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
Sis!
GRAB
KRRRSH
Augh!!
CRUMBLE
CRACK
CRACK

Crap... She's got her!
FLAIL
FLAIL
Help!
Nooo!
Where's Aoi Fukasaku ?!
KRAK
?!

Eek!
POOMF
WHUP
GRAB
SWISH
Don't drop us, Shion!
SHION
Oh my goooood!
Not agaaain!
VWEEN

GWSH
D-Don't let go!!
I can't... hold on...!
O-Oh my god!
POOMF
Hyahhh!!
DANGLE
?!
TOK
Get outta here!!
Hurry...

BAM !!
KRRSH
The pendulum ... Jump!!
WHOOSH
?!
LEAP

TCH
...
...
FWSH

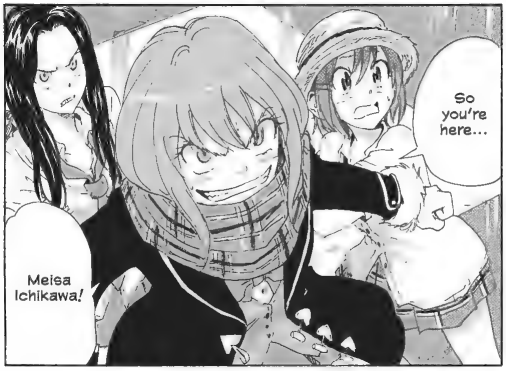
?!
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK

HUFF
Alright ...
We got away!
HUFF
TMP
TMP
TMP

Dammit... Why'd they build this crap?!
HUFF
HUFF
Another maze...

Ozuuu...
Long time no see!
!!
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
So you're here...
Meisa Ichikawa!
P-29 END

Ozuuu...
Long time no see!
Phase.30[Ideology]


So you're here...
Meisa Ichikawa!

ガラ
CLANK
ガラ
CLANK

Yeah.
That stuffed rabbit...

CLANK

Looks like we got out of climbing to the top floor!
That's Dr. Coppelius!

Yeah...
Well... a lot's... happened...

Yo, second-year Ichikawa!
You look as sluggish as ever. How've ya been?!

This is just like school! Brings ya back, am I right?!

YAWN.
AK
CHEEP
PEN
PEN
Yo!
Second-year, Meisa Ichikawa!
!
キーンコーン
BING BONG
BING BONG
カーンコーン
Wh...
What is it, Ozu?
Uh... I-I'm in the middle of a game right now...
I'll have a yakisoba sandwich for lunch.
And I want... um... um...
And I'm out of money this month... so, um—
TG

If you're broke, go sell your laptop! You'll at least make enough to pay for lunch!
B-But why should I have to pay for both of you—?
Did you not hear me?! Huh?!
GWSH
What's that?!
I-I'll... go buy your food... urgh...
That's a good girl! Gyahaha!
I want a roll with jam!
WHUD
Now...
You'll do what we say, just like you did back then. Right, Ichikawa?!
Those were some good times, right?!
Be good and hand over the rabbit!

Wh...
What?!
I'm not scared of you anymore!
No way, stupid!
I'll break you into little pieces! There won't even be a single speck of you left!
BZZT
Why you...!
CLENCH
I'm gonna make you pay for that. You better get all your bluffing out now, Ozu!
You were aaalways working me to the bone...
IT SEEMS THAT YOU, TOO, ARE FAILED SPECIMENS.
VRR
AH, THE OZU SISTERS ...
FVVV

YOU NEEDN'T HOLD BACK, MEISA ICHIKAWA.
You're the one who made us this way, Dr. Coppelius!
Wh-What the hell?! Hey!!
It was all my bad, haha! Let bygones be bygones, right?!
Oh, Miss Ichikawa, won't you please hear me out?
KILL THEM...
AND CAPTURE AOI FUKASAKU ONCE MORE.
There's no reason for us to kill each other!
We're friendly class-mates!

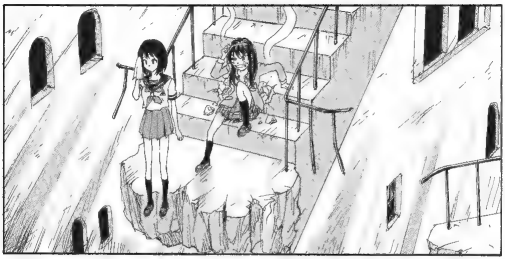
KILL THEM, MEISA ICHIKAWA.
Don't listen to that creepy scientist!
I won't say anything mean, so come to our side!
Don't you see that, Ichi-kawa?!
He's just using you!
...that the school ordered the Cleanup Crew to kill us second-years—us defects.
Dr. Coppelius told us...
That's exactly what representative Naruse said.
Ozu...

You think *you* have a grudge against them?! Well, I've got you beat!
I'm no yes-man! Not for the school *or* the government!
I was wrong about you, Ozu!
How could you go along with something so heartless?!
Why would you join forces with an elite student like her?! Why...? *Why?!*
Then why are you with the class representative?!
She's different from us. She's got no hesitation.
Just...
Maybe she's just stupid, but...
I dunno.
...

Don't you think...
...that's a little HUMAN?
She doesn't get caught up in that complex stuff.
What's right, what's wrong...
GLARE
MEISA!
Come with us—
So... come on, Ichikawa.
BSSH

!!
KRIISH
Ichi-kawa ...!
.... Ibara's gun!
That's ...
RRMM
FOO
RRMM

BOOF
It's no use. Run!
GRAB
BLAM
BLAM
SHCKLE
SHCKLE
KRRRSH
Yeek!!
We'll lure her in!
The laby-rinth!



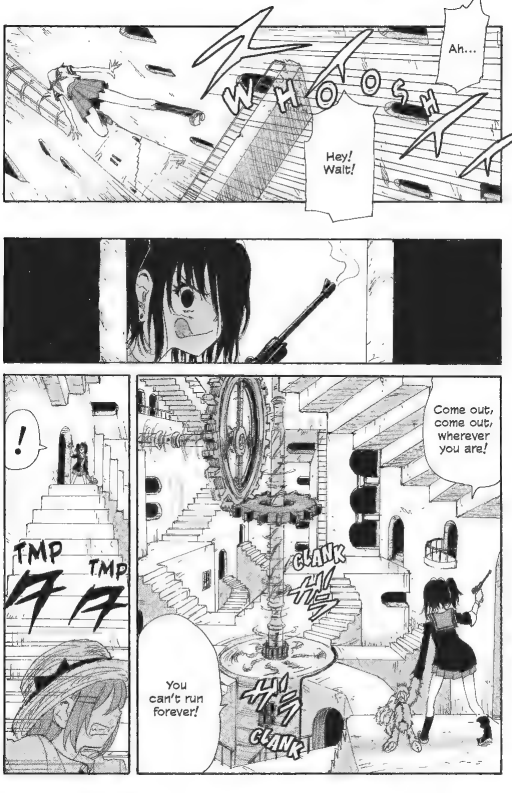
!
MANA, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
MEET UP WITH ME!

...

Wait!
Mana Tsuburaya!
?

スウゥゥ
SWISH
!

Why …
Why are you following Meisa's every command?
Don't listen to her!
You could come with us!
Miss Ichikawa…
Without me… she'd be all alone…
I can't …
…


WHOOSH
Ah...
Hey! Wait!
!
TMP
TMP
Come out, come out, wherever you are!
CLANK
CLANK
You can't run forever!

Nooo! Stay away!
BLAM
BLAM
Slow down!
CLANK
CLANK
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
Aoi Fukasaku! Found ya!
WE NEED HER ALIVE.
LEAVE HER UNHARMED, MEISA.
Eeek!!
KRRSH
BOOF
Yessir, Doctor!
...
It's fine, it's not like I hit her!

...?!
THUD
THUD
...
Gyahh!!
SLAM
TMP
But hey, that's check-mate!
Now I can get back to gaming!
Ow.
Fell flat on her face...
Wakey wakey!
WHUD

!!
You're a real problem child...
EWAD
TCH
RRMM
Whoops!
Kanon's such a bad girl!
P-30 END

Aoi Fukasaku! Found ya! ♪
That's checkmate, Dr. Coppelius.
Phase.31【 On the Trail! Battle on the Web 】

!!

FWAP
Wakey wakey!

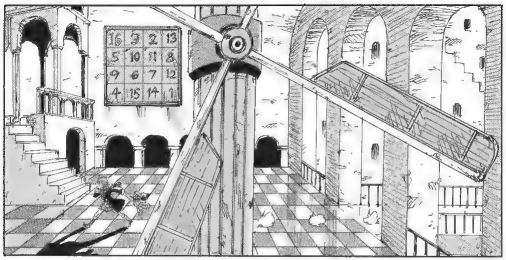
K...
Kanon Ozu?!

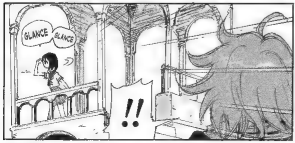
!!
GWSH
Crap!!
Aoi Fukasaku! Now!
GRAB
I've got the rabbit!!

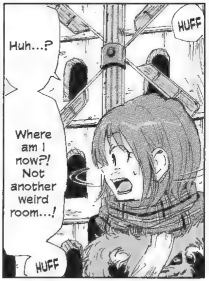
Give him back!
Wait!
TMP
TMP
W...
...perfectly!!
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
The uniform switch worked...
Serves you right!
!
FSSH
?!
B-Break!!

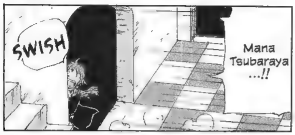
HWOO
SHWOOO
She broke into pieces !!
Whoa!!
CLANK
CLANK
SHWOOO
She beat me there.
…

FWISH
Reload!
CLANK
Hmph ...
Where did that bitch Aoi Fukasaku go?!
CLANK
TMP
I won't let her get away!


16 3 2 13
5 10 11 8
9 6 7 12
4 15 14 1


GLANCE
GLANCE
!!


HUFF
Huh...?
Where am I now?! Not another weird room...!
HUFF


SWISH
Mana Tsubaraya ...!!

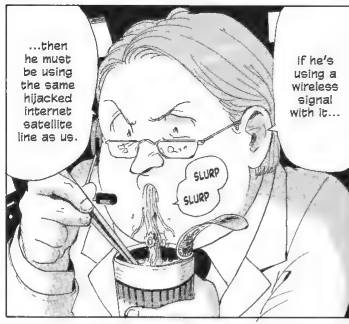
!
MANA, THIS IS DR. COPPELIUS.
FWT
AOI FUKASAKU IS VERY CLOSE TO YOU.
!

Aoi!
!
Stay quiet!
DASH
Grr! You stupid rabbit!
?
Ibara! Taeko!
Shhh! Quick, down here!
...
So the mission's over, right?!
I got the rabbit!
Okay, she's gone!

Dr. Coppelius was using this rabbit to communicate with the second-years...
We might be able to use it to find his real location.
Let's move!
No, stupid! This is where the real thing begins!
KCHK
He's probably keeping tabs on us from elsewhere.
If he were exposed to their neutrons, he'd end up dead.
Oh?!
Perhaps he's hiding somewhere?
So like, why isn't Dr. Coppe- whoever here to help the second-years?
...?
Better just pull it all out!
RUSTLE
Aha, there's something inside it!

Ibara, we're connected to Mr. Mushanokoji!
BEEP
BEEP

...a smartphone, a microphone, and a camera... Is that all?!
It's...


...then he must be using the same hijacked Internet satellite line as us.
If he's using a wireless signal with it...
SLURP
SLURP

YOU SAY YOU FOUND A SMART-PHONE?
THIS IS MUSHA-NOKOJI IN NAGOYA!

The call logs...
BEEP
BEEP
CHECK THE CALL LOGS. WE CAN USE THAT TO FIND OUT WHERE HE'S TRANSMITTING FROM!

It looks like access to the call logs are restricted by user...
Huh?! I can't open it!
BLIP BLIP
?!
BLIP
CALL LOGS
ERROR: YOU DO NOT HAVE PERMISSION TO ACCESS THIS RESOURCE.
OK
CANCEL
Is there any other way for us to find out where Dr. Coppelius is?!
GRAB
But... the second-years are right here, we don't have time!
It would take even me the whole day to get past that!
That's not good! You need a password, then!
SLURP
We're probably locked out of every section of that phone containing personal information ...
Hmm ...
FVVT
LET'S SEE... UM... ERM...
Then what do we do?!
?

Look! The mutant water flea!
What?!
GLANCE
GLANCE
Wh...?
Crap... Go! Don't make a sound...
SWISH
Eek...
IT'S NO USE! I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING!
FVVT

KRSH
Run !!
I already am!
DASH!
Aieee!
WHUD
WHUD
WHUD
Wh-What is with this maze?! It's like *Ropes and Ladders!*
MISS REP... DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER CLUES?!
DR. COPPELIUS HAD TO HAVE USED SOMETHING ON THE INTERNET WHEN HE FIRST MADE CONTACT WITH MEISA ICHIKAWA!
...!

Does that help?!
Melisa's been playing an online game here in Tokyo!
VIDEO GAMES!
!
Yes, that's perfect!
He very well could have secretly contacted Melisa Ichikawa in an online game!
But ...
BWOOM
KRRSH
How can you figure anything out when we don't even know which game it is—?

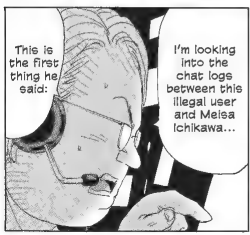
Uh...
Sounds great...
...for a user who's currently accessing a game server illegally from within the Tokyo area!
And if there is one such user...
...it could only be Meisa Ichikawa!
TAK TAK TAK
I've already started a search through every online game...
TAK TAK
Roger!
FWOOSH
But please hurry!
TAP
I NEED FIVE MINUTES!
SO HOLD OUT FOR THAT LONG!

Naruse!
Heeey!
CRACK
CRACK
...?
Sheesh, where'd they run off to?
Gah!
FWUMP
Oof!!

FVVT
THIS IS MUSHA-NOKOJI IN NAGOYA!
!
Gyahaha! He's stuck!
グネ
グネ
WIGGLE
WIGGLE
Oh boy! Caught up in some crazy adventure as usual, I see!
HMM HMM
HERE WE GO... NAMES AND ADDRESSES, ONE AFTER THE OTHER! BWAHAHA!
I'M GRABBING INFO ON THE USERS FROM HER FRIENDS LIST NOW!
I isolated one user in the Tokyo area who's been gaming all day lately!
We did it, Miss Rep!
CLACK
You're lookin' for somebody clearly outta the ordinary—some suspicious creep—that'll be Dr. Coppelius!
Good job, nerd!
It has to be Meisa Ichikawa!

...
Hey! What's wrong, nerd?!
Th-There's one user...
...with illegal access... and they log in from—
NAGOYA.
DR. COPPELIUS IS IN NAGOYA!
P-31 END

Phase.32[Problem on the Nagoya Front]
Dr. Coppelius …
…is in Nagoya?!


I'm looking into the chat logs between this illegal user and Meisa Ichikawa…
This is the first thing he said:

But that's crazy…
It's got to be some kind of mix-up, Mr. Mushanokoji!

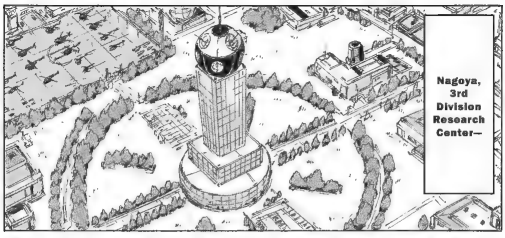
"HELLO, THERE. IT'S BEEN SOME TIME...
...MY DARLING DOLL."

There's no mistake.
This is Dr. Coppelius!
Alright, nerd!
Where exactly in Nagoya is he?!
Find him and take him in!
I'm narrowing down his location now!
O-Oh, right! I should contact the government and widen the search net—
TAK TAK
KREE
MORON! DON'T TELL THE GOVERNMENT A THING!
?!
Huh?!
Why not, Kanon?
If we tell Secretary Ougai, they'll find Dr. Coppelius right away...

They're afraid he's gonna leak government secrets!
It's obvious!
Why do you think the government is so desperate to get their hands on Dr. Coppelius?
...?
...about us Coppelion.
Top secret info...
If the government were to capture Dr. Coppelius...
Then...
BUT THE GOVERNMENT DOES SEEM OVERLY JUMPY ABOUT HIM.
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS...

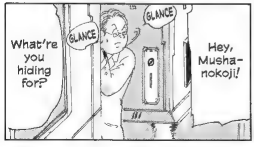
Do you get it?
If we wanna get our hands on a gold mine of info about the Coppelion Project...
...then we gotta get to Dr. Coppelius before the government does!
Then the truth will remain shrouded in mystery.
That's what you're after, Kanon?
You just wanna know... why you were made.
SWISH
The hell's with you...?
DOOM
You got a problem with that?
Ibara Naruse?!

Please, Mr. Musha-nokoji!
Could you keep this a secret from the government as you narrow down your search?
!
...
ROGER! I'LL DO AS MUCH AS I CAN!
That's a good girl, Naruse. ♪
Guess you do listen after all.
Okay, let's go!
We'll wait on standby someplace where the second-years won't find us!


Nagoya, 3rd Division Research Center—

That Musha-nokoji ...
VMMM
FWIP
Tch...

!
Lt. Ibuse, over here!

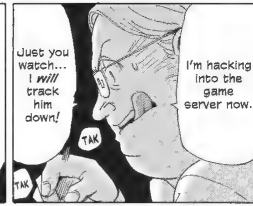

What're you hiding for?
GLANCE
GLANCE
Hey, Musha-nokoji!

Not that I have anything else to do!
What's he want me for all of a sudden?
CLOP
CLOP

So this is your hideout...
You can't enter or exit any floor unless your DNA identifies you as authorized personnel.
This is the perfect place to talk off the record.
01 SECURITY SYSTEM
BEEP BEEP
DNA MATCH CONFIRMED.
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY KEEP OUT!
So we're talking about something the higher-ups can't know?
Off the record?!
I can't eat anything but chocolate!
OMPH OMPH
My stomach is in dire straits thanks to you people...

So we're gonna find Dr. Coppelius before the government can.
I got it...
RICE CRACKERS

Why would he hide out here in Nagoya?
I don't understand this Dr. Coppelius guy at all...


Just you watch... I will track him down!
I'm hacking into the game server now.
TAK
TAK

He must have come as close to us as possible so he could access our intelligence.
Dr. Coppelius knows about the Coppelion's Tokyo operations in detail.
TAK
TAK

Is he careless or just plain stupid?
He'll be locked up the moment he's found.
TAK
TAK

I can pinpoint his location down to the building and computer!
GWSH!
Do we know where he is?!
PING
The search finished!
Oh...
PING
3RD DIVISION RESEARCH CENTER 45F
PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 25-Y3-52-7C-66-95
The Research Center?!
But that's *this* building!
Wha...?!

BOOOM
?!
RAA
RAA
Wh-What was that?!
It sounded like an explosion...
There was a large explosion in the airfield!
Gather the men! We could be dealing with terrorists!
Ter-ror-ists ?!
The airfield ?!

BOOOOM

Our choppers are blowing up one after another!
Huh?! What the hell is going on?!

Put out the fires!
F-WOOM
There are bombs on the heli-copters!
BOOOM

We have our own problem to worry about!
Lt. Ibuse!

So much for that!
Weren't you just bragging about how access to these floors is restricted?!
TONK
I-I don't understand it myself!
We have to find him before he slips away!
RAA
RAA
45
Dr. Coppelius is somewhere on this floor...

Come in, Mr. Mushanokoji!
Hello, this is the Coppelion in Tokyo!
R-Right! Check their physical addresses against the one we just saw!
Dammit... Okay, we'll have to split up and check all the computers one by one!

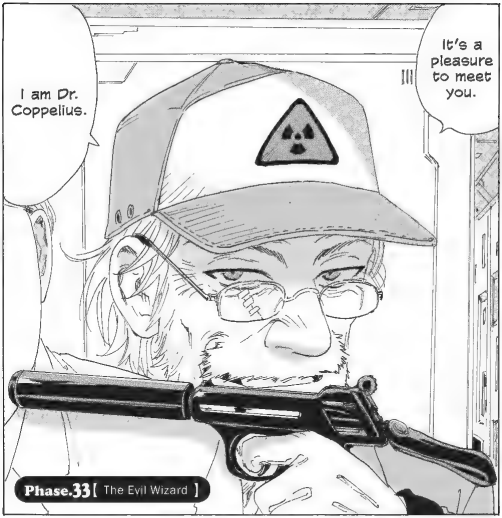
Bad signal or something?
Perhaps something came up and he had to leave his seat?
Huh? It's not getting through ...
Hellooo ?!
Guess we've got no choice but to wait.
FVVT
Hmm ...
None of the computers will turn on!
But we've still got power...
What's going on?!
Hey...
TAK TAK
What the heck?!

No good, we can't get through—
BEEP
GSSH
FWOOM
Come in, HQ!
GSSH
HOO
HOO
...
?!
I...
I gotta tell Musha-nokoji —
CLACK
Don't tell me...
That explosion —
CLACK
FWIP
Keep up the good work!
BEEP
VMMM
HUFF
HUFF

Hm? Something stinks...
SNIFF SNIFF
I'll start with this room...
Wh...?
There's smoke coming from the servers—
?!
Dr. Coppelius must've set this up to destroy the evidence that he was here!
An EMP is a burst of electro-magnetic energy that knocks out any electronic devices in the area...
HUFF
HUFF
That explosion, it was an EMP!
TMP
Hey! Mushanokoji!
TMP

?!
Am I too late...?!
BWAP
Shit...
TWITCH
GROTH
GROTH
Where are you, Mushanokoji?!
Say something!
Hello, Ibuse.

It's a pleasure to meet you.
I am Dr. Coppelius.
P-32 END


I am Dr. Coppelius.
It's a pleasure to meet you.
Phase.33[The Evil Wizard]

You're Lt. Ibuse, yes?
...

Put down the gun...
...before your friend gets hurt.

Like how you can get this Musha-nokoji fellow to do anything as long as you feed him.
I know many things.
...do you know my name?!
How...
This is the JGSDF's turf! There's nowhere for you to run!
Cool down, Dr. Coppelius!
Don't poke into my private life!
H-How rude!
...
Was there some kind of explosion outside?
This place is awfully light on guards...
Or is there...?

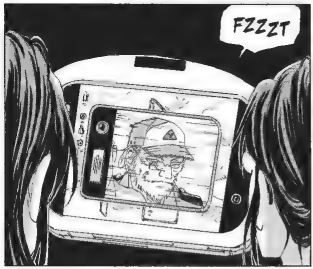
Mushanokoji... your friend here isn't very smart, is he?
GWSH!
!
Drop the gun and put your hands in the air!
Don't play dumb! We know that was your doing!
FWAP
Don't be dumb, Lt. Ibuse!
This isn't some TV show, so stop playing hero!
Ugh ...
WOBBLE
ヨロ..
Y-You don't have to say that much, fatty!
BANG

!!
Argh... my leg!
Gah!
BWISH
You'd best see to him.
Your subordinate is injured.
You bastard!!
You...
!!
SWISH

Gahh...
...
Shit !!
Hold it!!
Ahh ...!
Kh...
P-Pull yourself together! I'll patch you up!
FWAP!!!
That bastard... He's not getting away!
DASH
I-It's just a scratch!
Go after him!
!

Mr. Mushanokoji, come in!
FOOAH
Hellooo! This is the Coppelion, in Tokyo!

FZZZT
FZZT FZZT
The image is coming back!
Oh?!


FZZZT

Still can't get through?
Yeah ...
Must be some kinda interference.

Who's that?!

This guy's—
What?!
This is Ibuse! I just ran into that old man—Dr. Coppelius!
It's an image from a security camera!
CLACK CLACK
Dr. Coppelius?!
The man behind the rabbit...
...
Ibara? What's wrong?
I didn't expect him to be such an old man.
Huh...?
...?

Gah!
FVVT
The system still isn't done recovering from the EMP?!
I feel like...
...I've seen him somewhere before...
POOMF
POOMF
!!
Where did that geezer go...
He's gotta be on our security feed!
TAK
TAK
It's back!
Now where are you, Dr. Coppelius ?!

EMERGENCY ALERT!
TMP
TMP
0 1
DING
PHASE 4! ALL PERSONNEL, EVACUATE TO THE SHELTER!
Secretary Ougai!
Quickly, proceed to the shelter! There are explosives planted all over the place!
BOOM
RAA
RAA
So, after 10 years...
...the lost little rabbit has come out of his rabbit hole, has he?

PSSSSH
BEEP BEEP
DNA MATCH CONFIRMED.
Dr Coppelius
I've heard a lot about you.
Well done, Mushanokoji.
SWOVE
Now show me in.
I'm a scientist, too, if barely...
You were one step away from the Nobel Prize—your work was genius.

No matter the grudge you may hold against the government, against society...
...any man who stoops to criminal acts like this isn't fit to be called a scientist!
But ...
I'm disappointed in what you've become!
I dedicated myself to my research for decades...
I wanted to use cloning to bring human life to new heights, with all my heart.
They stripped the title of "scientist" from me long, long ago.
Mushanokoji.
People saw me as some sort of evil wizard.
DR. COPPELIUS EXPELLED FROM ACADEMIA
DO EMBRYOS HAVE HUMAN RIGHTS?
Dr. Coppelius. A maniacal magician who had turned his back on God.
DR. COPPELIUS
ANGEL OR DEMON? SCIENCE GONE TOO FAR.
...when the technology was finally on the brink of completion, what did the world think of it?
And then...

They kill each other, steal from each other... and revel in ecstasy over their spoils.
In the end, humans prefer their differences, their inequality.
What part of that was evil?
All I wanted was to give new arms to children who'd lost them.
If humanity is so against progressing and maturing as a species...
And so I made up my mind.
...a life-form superior to humans—the *ultimate* life-form—
...then I shall show them...

...
CLANG
CLANG
?!
Haruto Kuro-sawa!
The only one who can is the owner of this "lab"...
Bwahaha! We're locked in!
The emergency locks here can't be undone without the DNA of the system developer.
Even I can't get us out of here!
FWUMP
You lose.
There's nothing to do but wait until the JGSDF gets here.

CLOP
?!
CLOP
SWIP
You'll never be able to open that door—
TSK TSK
It's no use.
This is the DNA scanner?
?!
CLUNK
CLUNK
B-But that's—
Let me show you a magic trick.
BEEP

!
Come on, you damn rabbit!
Tch... Where the hell are they?!
This camera... The underground parking garage?!
!!
There!
Musha-mokoji!
!!
DING
ガラー
CLACK
FWAP

What was he doing in here?!
Where's Dr. Coppelius?!
Y-Yes, somehow... Ow!
FWAP
Hey, you okay?!
For what?!
Manufacturing data?!
This is terrible... He stole the manufacturing data!
H-He ran that way!
DASH
For aether!
For the magic-like drug that gives humans the Coppelion's resistance to radiation for 10 minutes...
?!
RRMM
RRMM
But... why the heck would he want that—?
Aether?!

RRMM
Let us meet again...
VWEEN
Good-bye, you two.
RRMM
...in the contaminated ruins of Tokyo...
The City of Death!
P-33 END

RRMM
RRMM
Phase.34【 Red Wings, To the East. 】
RRMM
?!

RRMM
RRMM
What is that red ship—?

RRMM
RRMM
!
Mow him down!!
Fire!
RA
TA
TA
TA
Shoot him down!
It's Dr. Coppelius!
FWAP

PSHOOO
PEW
CLINK
Fall back!!
F...
PLONK
!!
RAA
KABOOM
RAA

RRMM
He's getting away! Take a heli-copter after him!
Yes, sir! B-But—
RAA
...
RAA
As you can see...
...our helicopters were taken out by the explosions earlier! We can't!
RRMM
I SEE YOU'VE CLIMBED YOUR WAY UP TO CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY...
RRMM
AND KNOWING YOU... YOU'RE WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES TO CONTROL THE PRIME MINISTER.
IT'S BEEN SOME TIME, OUGA!

FOR I'LL BE INTERFERING EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!
BUT THAT'S AS FAR AS YOU'LL GET.
WHOOOSH
MWA-HAHAHA!
FAREWELL!

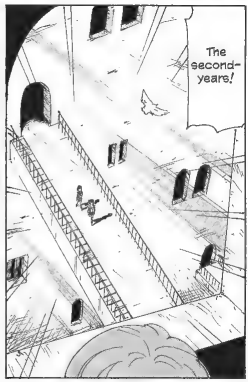
That bastard ...!
He got away!
Damn it!
HUFF
HUFF
TMP
?!
East, is it...?
Where do you suppose he may be going, Ibuse?
FWIP
Secretary Ougai!
Uh...
Well...

Yeah, uh, I don't think so. Ibuse-chi's a flake.
Why, they must have arrested Dr. Coppelius!

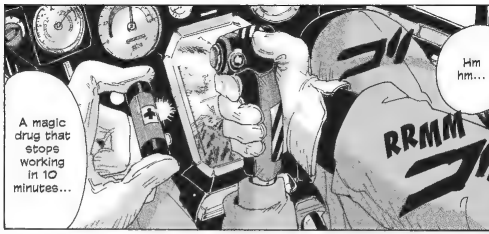
What the heck's going on?!
We *still* haven't heard back from Nagoya!

Naruse! They're here!
...!
SWISH

I see... Tokyo?


The second-years!

Yes, sir!
Dr. Coppelius said...
...we'd meet again in the City of Death!
Dr. Coppelius stole our stock of aether, along with its manufacturing data!
Wait...
He *is* aware of the conditions in Tokyo, yes?
There's too much radiation. He won't be able to enter the city limits without a hazmat suit.
Yes, exactly!
As long as he has that, he'll be able to live in Tokyo for a while even without a suit!
What's the deal?!
Yeah, what he said!
...
If he has 100 shots of aether, he can only survive for 16 hours.
Still, aether renders radiation harmless for a mere 10 minutes per injection...


Hm hm...
RRMM
A magic drug that stops working in 10 minutes...

I'll need to make some improvements.
WHOOSH
Whatever the case...

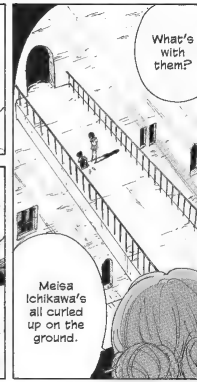
...Dr. Coppelius has fled for Tokyo.
In other words, our pursuit has driven the man into a corner.

We can reform the Medical Unit and take the evacuation chopper to—
Then the Investigation Unit's mission is complete!
?!
We have him trapped like a rat.
Well done, Ibuse!
CLASP
...that capturing the real Dr. Coppelius is now their top priority.
Tell your dolls...
That's not how this was supposed to go! Sir!
Dammit...
Hey, wait!
GRAB
Wh ...?

H-Hey! Where are you off to, Mushanokoji ?!
TMP
TMP
TMP
...?!
What ?!
...about Dr. Coppelius.
There's something I need to look into...
Sigh...
SWISH
Hey, hold on!

Ugh!
And they took my bunny rabbit...
I couldn't care less about Aoi Fukasaku anymore...
FWUMP
Screw this. I'm beat!
This only happened cuz you're so slow, you derp!
What's with that look?!
Ahahaha!
Not that I have a home!
I wanna go home...
SWIP
Blaaah.

And now that they don't have any orders from Dr. Coppelius ...
She's always been emotionally unstable.


What's with them?
Meisa Ichikawa's all curled up on the ground.

So she's lost the will to fight.
Huuuh ...

LISTEN UP, GIRLS!
THIS IS IBUSE IN NAGOYA!

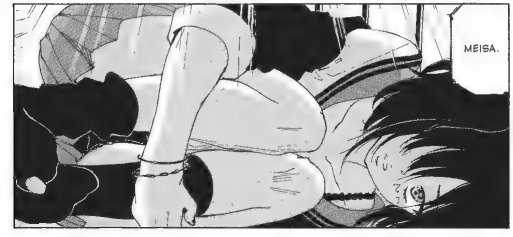
PSST PSST
Ibara, Lt. Ibuse's on the line!
Oh!
ZZZ
Finally!

For reals?! I knew you'd do it, Ibuse-chi!
You caught Dr. Coppelius, right?!

MY DARLING DOLLS.
HELLO...
?!

THE TRUTH IS—
NO... WE DIDN'T!

THIS VOICE FROM ON HIGH... RATHER, IT'S ME, DR. COPPELIUS.
CAN YOU HEAR ME...?


MEISA.

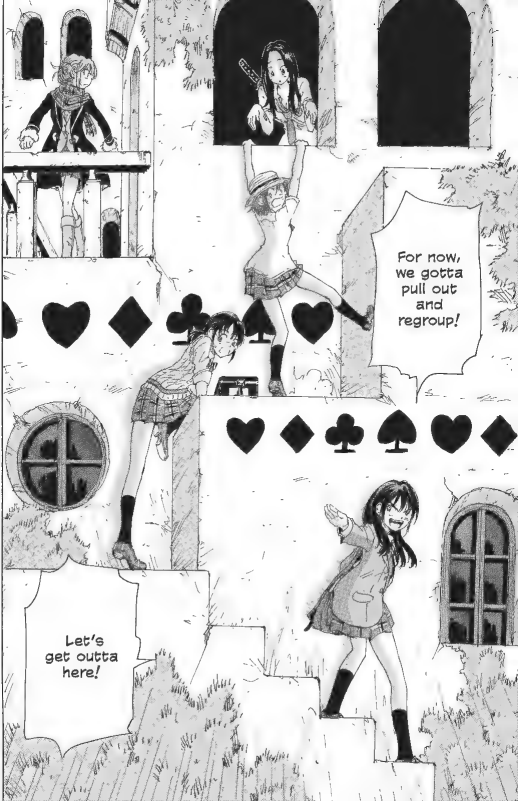
I'm on my way to you.
Wait for me.

He's on his way here?!
H...

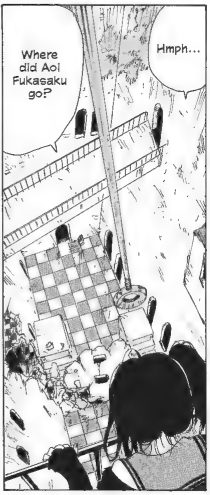
WATCH YOUR BACKS!
WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TRICKS HE'S GOT UP HIS SLEEVE!
DR. COPPELIUS IS WAY MORE DANGER-OUS THAN WE THOUGHT!
FVVT
YOU HAVE TO GET OUT OF THERE!
...Aoi...
Dr. Coppelius is after...
This is bad!
Crap...
We're pulling out of here!
Every-body up!

HWOOO
Meisa Ichikawa...
She's back on her feet!
P-34 END

Phase.35[Inferno]
Dr. Coppelius is on his way to Tokyo...
Is he aiming to give orders to the second-years in person...?


For now, we gotta pull out and regroup!
Let's get outta here!

Nuh-uh.
Anything on your side, Mana?

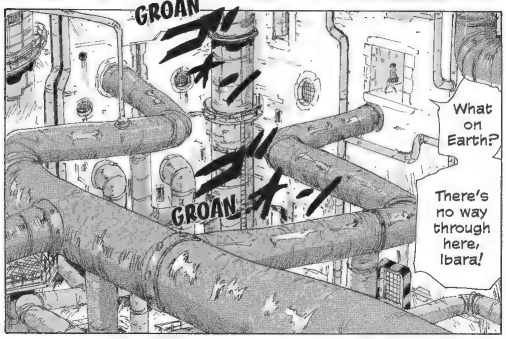

Where did Aoi Fukasaku go?
Hmph...

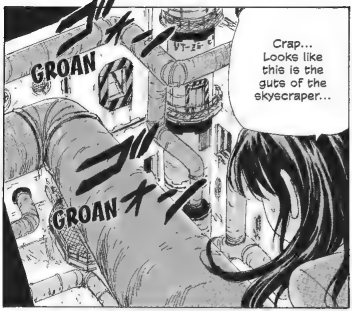
Is psychokinesis all you're good for?!
Like... don't you have any ability that can track down enemies?!
SHAKE
SHAKE
...

B-But it's making me so dizzy ...
Okay, we gotta stay hidden like this all the way to the ground floor.

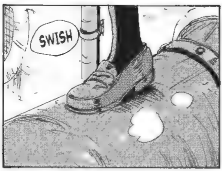
The second-years are on the other side of this wall... still on that bridge.
BZZT
They must be watchin' for us from there.

?!


GROAN
GROAN
What on Earth?
There's no way through here, Ibara!


GROAN
GROAN
Crap... Looks like this is the guts of the skyscraper...

...
GROAN

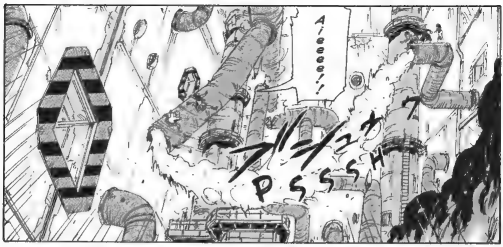

SWISH

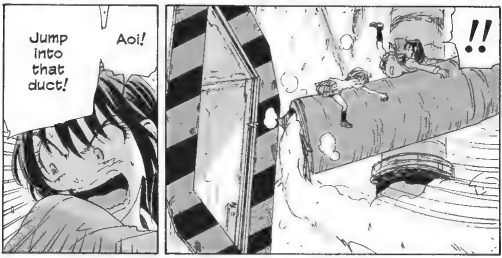
Th-Then what do we do?! We can't—
There weren't any other ways to turn.

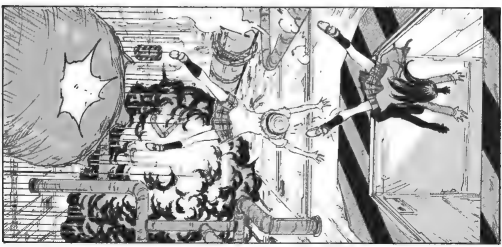
Remember the gymnastics we did in school!
Don't look down!
Eek! This is too scary!
HWOOOO...
KREE

MEISA, THIS IS DR. COPPELIUS.
?!
SMOKE OUT THE RATS.
YOU MAY USE IT NOW.
VWEEEEN
CLICK
Did he just say to smoke us out?!
I dunno!
What're they gonna use?!
Use what?!

ズドオン
BOOOOM
CRACK
CRACK
ゴゴゴ
RRMM
?!
ゴゴゴ
RRMM
Whoa!!
Ibara!


Aieeee!
PSSSSH


Jump into that duct!
Aoi!
!!



FSSH
I-I'm falling!
FSSH
BLAM
Gyah!
TUMP
Are you two alright?!
Phew, that was a close one!
GRAB
Crap... That must've been from an explosion!
We're fine!
FWOOM

FWOOM
Dr. Coppelius... That bastard! This was a trap!
He meant to trap us in here from the start!
FWOOM
?!
FWOOM
We can't make it over there!
What now, rep?!
Smoke us out, huh...
Look for a way out and get to the ground!
We'll have to split up!

?!
You forgot this!
Hold up!
FLING
My gun!
FWAP
Or I won't have anybody to lash out at!
Don't you go dying, Naruse!

WARNING: HIGH VOLTAGE
Crap ...
The fire's right below us.
R R M M
POP
POP
P S S S M
?!
Ibara, look out!
Alright, Aoi... we gotta run through here in one go!
CLANG
O-Okay! Koff!
CLANG

KRAK
FWOOM
!!
FWOKAR
ROLL
ROLL
?!
KRAHH
T.MP.
T.MP.
T.MP.
I-Ibara!
Ugh ....

...

I've been looking all over for ya, rep! ♪
RRMM
Aha!
RRMM

Warning: High Voltage
BZZT
Now then...
Hand over Aoi Fukasaku.

!!
BZZT
BZZZT
BWOOSH
CRACK!
FSSSSH
Whoa, sparks !!
!!

Break!!
FSSH

!!
CLANG
Now!
CLANG

WOOSH

KRAK
Reload
!!

Crusher !!
FWOOSH
WHUD
WHUD
WHUD
WHUD
WHUD
WHUD

Ah...
...
Ah
...
TWITCH
TWITCH
...
SHUOOO
GWSH
We can't beat her...
There's no way ...!!
P-35 END

Phase.36[The Empty Girl]
GWSH
RRMM
Anywho ...
Now that I've finished off representative Ibara...

All that's left to do is...

Eek! Stay away!
Ee—
FSSH
TMP
I surrender!

Yeesh ...
BWOOOSH
FWAP
Whoops, I forgot!
GWSH
SWUDDER
SWUDDER
CLUNK
RUSTLE RUSTLE
SWIP

It really sucks that I lose my clothes every single time.
FWAP!!
!
GRAB
TMP
TMP
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
Oh no...
I can't get up—!
Hup!
WHOOMP

Hmm...
...
Is she seriously the perfect Coppelion ...?
PLOP
Guess I'll go game while we wait for Dr. Coppelius to arrive.
I'm done here.
Welp...
TMP
TMP

FWOOM
HUFF
HUFF
Haa... urgh!
KOFF
KOFF
FWOOSH
Don't breathe in the smoke!
Here, get some fresh air! Pull it together, four-eyes!
Get up! We gotta get to the ground!
This place might fall apart at any moment!
CRUMBLE
HUFF
HUFF

...is to evacuate the survivors...
All we want...
KOFF
KOFF
...do we have to keep fighting?!
How long...
Crying ain't gonna change reality.
Why are we even here?
I can't do this anymore ...
Look outside, four-eyes.
We may as well be stuck in some bombed-out ruins.
What do you see?

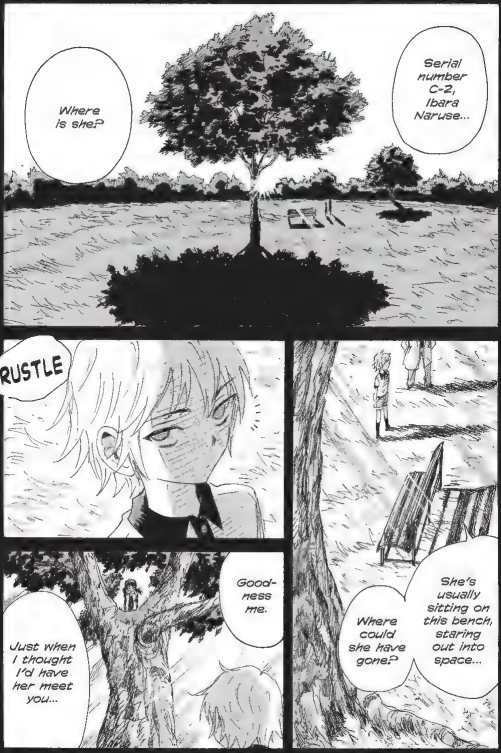
There's nobody here to save you.
That's right... an empty, abandoned city.

Us two, we fell to nothing... and crawled back up to where we are now.
So you gotta push through on your own.

STOMP
S-Sis ?!
We're not obligated to help weaklings!
If you don't wanna be part of the Medical Unit again, then go ahead and cry there for the rest of your life!
TMP
TMP
H-Hmph! Moron!
TWIRL
TWIRL

Whatever... It'll be a real pain if Aoi Fukasaku flips out from being alone.
So you're bringing the rep, too, Mana?

Ibara Naruse...


Where is she?
Serial number C-2, Ibara Naruse...
RUSTLE
Just when I thought I'd have her meet you...
Goodness me.
Where could she have gone?
She's usually sitting on this bench, staring out into space...

There's a girl up in the tree.
Dr. Coppelius.
Oho.
There she is.
Haruto... Let me introduce you.
That girl is Ibara Naruse. She's five years old, just like you.

She's a useless doll, like that.
As you can see, she's empty... as if she has no will of her own.
At this rate, she'll be a failure...

YOU MAY RETURN TO CITY HALL AND RESUME YOUR GAME.
MY APOLOGIES, MEISA. I'M TAKING A BRIEF DETOUR.
What?! You won't be here until nighttime?!
!
What do you mean by detour?
...
Mama put out the fire, so I don't care if we wait here...
YOU'LL SEE WHEN I ARRIVE.
ZZZ
HM HM HM.

I looked aaall around, but there's nobody but kitty cats, sie!
MEOW
Are Naruse and Aoi Fukasaku still in there?!

Crap...
Already 9:00 PM!

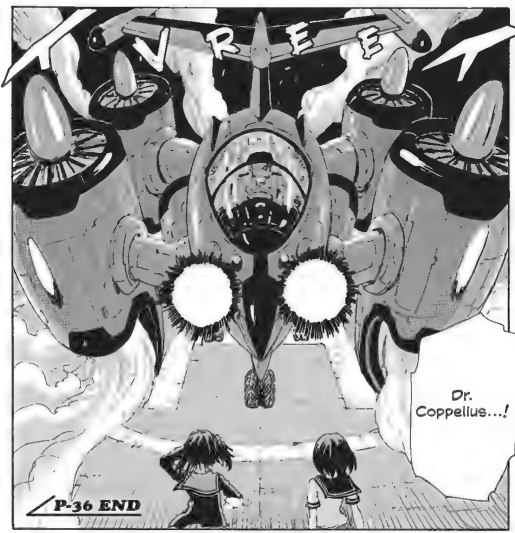
That ditz...!
TCH
...

... captured them?
Do you suppose the second-years...

What the hell are you doing, four-eyes?
?!
FWAP
I know that it has nothing to do with you... but—
I know it's selfish of me to ask...
Help us!
Please...
Get up!
!
So please, save them, Miss Ozu!
I... I'll become stronger!

We owe you guys one.
So we'll pay that much back!
VREEE
?!
Th...
Thank you so much!
That light...
VREEEE
Could it be—?

VVREEET
VWEEN
He's finally showing himself...


VVREEET
Dr. Coppelius...!
P-36 END

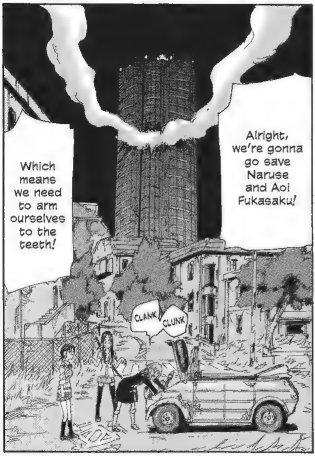
RRMM
RRMM
Phase 37 【 The Magic Drug 】

PSSSH
Finally here.

Tokyo...
TNK
It hasn't changed one bit from 20 years ago.

...Dr. Coppelius?
You're...
So we finally meet, Meisa Ichikawa.
That's correct.
You're exposed to our neutrons! Will you be okay?!
Wait... huh?!
...?!

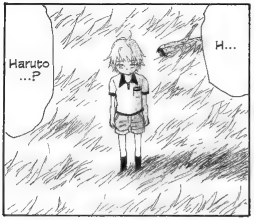
I used a magic drug.
Hm hm...


Which means we need to arm ourselves to the teeth!
Alright, we're gonna go save Naruse and Aoi Fukasaku!
CLANK
CLUNK

KCHK

CLICK
CLICK
This is a job for the Cleanup Crew.
You just stick behind us.
...we won't be able to take back Ibara and Aoi, will we?
Unless we defeat the second-years...
...
I'll fight, too!
Please give me a gun, Miss Ozu.
Go wild! ♪
SWISH
You've got guts, four-eyes.

CLOP
Oho...
CLOP
Ibara Naruse... It's been quite some time since we last met.


Haruto ...?
H...

...?!
...

Although you may not remember me.
SWIP
It is me, Ibara Naruse. Dr. Coppelius.

I think she's not all there.
Haruto ?!

This reminds me of the day when you and Haruto first met.
Now when was it... Ah, I know.

It's already been 13 years since then... How nostalgic.
You were looking down upon us then, too, from the top of a tree.

You remember me, then?
That's right.
So you were the one next to Haruto back then—
Dr. Coppelius…
Keeping up with daily radio calisthenics has kept this old body in good shape.
…?!
What do you think? Haven't changed much, have I?
I, too, have aged since then…
Must I really explain this again? Tsk, tsk…
How are you standing next to a second-year…?
Wait…

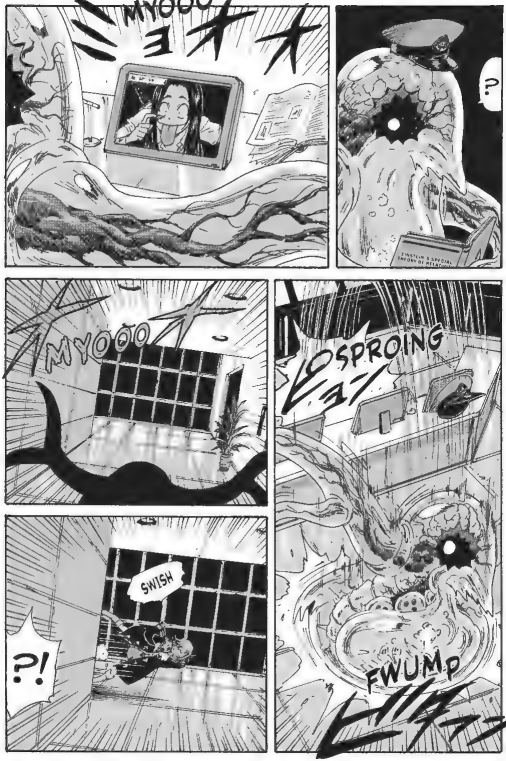
Aether, the magic drug...
Nagoya, 3rd Division Research Center—
He made me give him the manufacturing process data that explains the theory behind it.
That drug can give ordinary humans the Coppelion's resistance to radiation for 10 minutes...
That's right, Lt. Ibuse.
TAK TAK
So he made off with our entire stock of this stuff?
That damn Dr. Coppelius...
...
It's not like he's gonna improve this stuff so it works 100 times longer, right?
What'd he steal the manufacturing data for?

You made an improved version of aether?!
You...
CLANK
So that's why it took you so long to get to Tokyo?
'Twas a simple task for a man of genius like myself.
It's not so surprising!
Now, now... it would have taken any other man a century!
...to this drug's inventor... Haruto Kurosawa.
I'm quite grateful...
It should make the human body immune to radiation for approximately 10 hours.
In any case... I tested my "aether plus" on lab rats to measure how long it remains in effect.

If enhancing aether was so easy for you...
PAT
PAT
...then the defect in the DNA of us second-years...
...should be a piece of cake for you to fix, shouldn't it, Dr. Coppelius?
You know...
...that that's why we're working with you, right?
To do that, I must first examine the completed Coppelion.
The key to fixing you will lie within her genetic information—her *genome*.

Wait!
CLANK
W...
C'mon, Doctor.
I'll take you to Aoi Fukasaku.
CLOP
Hey! Stop!
What do you want with Aoi?!

The Chimera's in the security room!
Shit...
Thinks he can be a security guard despite bein' a giant friggin' water flea, does he?!
VMMM
...
So he's smarter than Shion here? What the hell...?
...he's reading Einstein's Theory of Relativity.
FLIP
EINSTEIN'S SPECIAL THEORY OF RELATIVITY
We'll just haveta go kamikaze on 'im ...
KCHK
If we dawdle around like that, Dr. Coppelius'll get away!
It will take quite some time to get to the top floor without access to an elevator.


MYOOO
?
MYOOOO
SPROING
SWISH
?!
FWUMP

Say hello to my custom rocket launcher!!
BWOOSH
Now burst open!
!!
SWISH
BTOOM
?!
SPLISHH

Stuck, ain't cha?! How d'ya like them apples?!
Gya ha ha!
ネバー
STICK
...
Get that elevator working, four-eyes!
BEEP BEEP
BLAM
BLAM
I'm on it!
DASH
MYOOO
BOOF

ZZZ
Hrm ...
How're you gonna do that?
You wanna study her DNA, right?
This is Aoi Fukasaku?
MYOOO
?!
We'll need to find a proper facility.
It can't be done here.
Sounds like we've got enemies on the way.
That's the signal from our security guard.

Intercept them.
THUD

TMP
53
You may tear them limb from limb.
P-37 END

to be continued·····